Food Processing Industrial Estates. The Schemes of the Ministry are not State specific.

(b) During the year 1995-96, a proposal was received from the State Government of West Bengal for setting up of Food Processing Industrial Estate at Dankuni in District Hoogly by a private sector undertaking, for which financial assistance of Rs. 75 lakhs was provided to them.

(c) to (e) Any other proposal received from any State/Union Territory for setting up such Food Processing Industrial Estates would be considered on merits, subject to availability of funds.

Agricultural Mechanization in Maharashtra

1535. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any programme for the promotion of agricultural mechanization among small farmers in the state of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds released for the programme during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the results so far achieved in the State under the programme, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers', a subsidy @ 30%, limited to Rs. 30,000/- is available to the farmers, group of farmers, Registered Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Credit Societies and Multi-purpose Agricultural Farming Societies, for the purchase of small tractors upto 30 Power Take Off Horse Power; along with their matching implements, not exceeding three, in number.

(c) During the last three years, funds amounting to Rs. 257.70 lakh have been released to the State of Maharashtra under the Scheme, as per details, given below:—

1993-94	Rs. 154.20 lakh
1994-95	Nil
1995-96	103.50 lakh

(d) During the 8th Plan period, so far 925 number of tractors have been subsidised, under the Scheme, in the State of Maharashtra. This has contributed, to some extent, in increasing the agriculture productivity, reduction in the cost of cultivation and consequently raising the income of farmers.

Settlement of grievances of employees of BSI, Calcutta

1536. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a communication dated 30.10.96 from Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers, Delhi seeking settlement of some issues concerning the employees of Botanical Survey of India, (BSI);

(b) if so, the issues mentioned therein; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to settle the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) A communication dated 30.10.96 from the Secretary General, Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers (CCGE&W), Delhi was received by the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests (GOI, MOEF). Referring to some issues concerning the employees of Botanical Survey of India (BSI), the Secretary General, CCGE&W in this letter requested Secretary, GOI, MOEF to have discussions with the representatives of BSI Employees Association (BSIEA) to inform them of the steps being taken by the Ministry to resolve the issues. Meanwhile, the Secretary General, BSIEA also requested a meeting with the Secretary, GOI, MOEF. The Secretary met the representatives of BSIEA on 13.11.1996. Various issues concerning the employees of the BSI were discussed in this meeting and the representatives were informed of the steps being taken by the Ministry to resolve these issues.